

# **A Church Is Not Just a Building**

## **In Reverence to the Indianapolis Baptist Temple**

**Commentary by J.J. Johnson - Published: 02.14.01**

On February 13, 2001 at 8:45 am Indianapolis time, another part of America - died.

And another is re-born.

As with the Challenger disaster, the Kennedy Assassination, and the Oklahoma City bombing, many Real Americans will forever remember where they were and what they were doing when they first received the news of the seizure of the Indianapolis Baptist Temple. For those of us who have covered this story almost since it began, there is a special sadness in our hearts. Saddened not by the loss of a mere building, but by the arrogance of our government and the depths to which it has sunk.

President George W. Bush, son of the "Kinder and Gentler" President, compromised whatever mandate he had for "faith-based" initiatives and showed America the real meaning of "Compassionate Conservatism": We won't use tanks and tear gas this time.

As we are satisfied that this President did not christen his tenure in office by performing another Waco, we can only wonder if this is the message being sent to all churches in the land: We have no first amendment rights, and our so-called freedom of religion is now subject to state approval. In case the candid world has forgotten, it was government arrogance of this type that fueled a revolution for this nation's independence.

The Eulogy of Pastor Greg A. Dixon says it best: "Your sympathy is greatly appreciated in this time of loss. We share in the loss of our beloved. It is difficult to express the depth of sorrow we feel as we see our dearest Christian Liberty (liberty to serve the Lord Jesus Christ) pass. Rest in peace now, sweet Christian Liberty. We did not love you as we should, and you had no peace in this world of man."

I personally hope that message reaches the thousands of clergymen around America; those who chose not to lend any support whatsoever. After all, no one wants the same thing to happen to their church. But with what happened today in Indianapolis, Indiana, the next church seizure is only a matter of time. You see, "evil only triumphs when good men do nothing."

Dixon and his congregation represent the most discriminated group in America today - Christians. We are mocked on the air waves, our symbols and treasures vandalized. They have passed laws against us, and given us little comfort in courts of law. They have proven that even force can and will be used against us, when we do not submit to their un-holy demands.

On February 13, 2001 A.D., the men gathered around with their guns loaded, prepared to

do battle with anyone who stood against them. The Indianapolis Police Department remained true to form - lying about the fact that they would not get involved. They held the perimeter free from anyone to even witness the attempted murder of America's fabric in America's Heartland. But as Pastor Dixon shunned those away who may have given their lives for freedom, this courageous Pastor breathes free to fight another day.

Who among us shall join him?

I submit that the only thing the government of the United State stole was a building made of stone and glass. But the True Church, the one that resides in all our hearts, can never be, and SHALL never be taken.

Pastor Dixon said, "They can take our building, but they can't take our congregation. Our people have been unified and we are proud of them and we'll regroup and we will go on from here."

We call on Pastor Greg Dixon to name the day and the place for worship, for you sir, have more than just a few hundred in your congregation - you have thousands from around the country - and the world.

Let this not be a day of mourning for our brethren in Indianapolis, but an awakening of people from around the nation - that our freedom is truly in jeopardy. This is just the next phase of the battle that started when the rock was moved, and the Body wasn't there. There is good news from what happened. To the federal government: You can have that building. But you'll never get that \$6 million. Pastor Dixon said he doesn't owe you anything, and we will never submit.